

PRAIRIE VARIETY OF *SOLIDAGO GIGANTEA*.—*S. GIGANTEA* Ait., var. **Pitcheri** (Nutt.) Shinnars, comb nov. *S. Pitcheri* Nutt., Journ. Phila. Acad. **7**: 101–102. 1834. TYPE: "In Arkansas," Dr. *Pitcher* (in Herb. Philadelphia Academy; measurements kindly supplied by the late Dr. F. W. Pennell in 1943, specimen personally examined in 1946).

Stem leaves 2–4 cm. wide, middle ones mostly less than 5 times as long as wide, coarsely serrate; lower panicle branches 5–25 cm. long, commonly more than 10 cm. In var. *gigantea* and the hardly separable var. *leiophylla* Fernald, the stem leaves are 1–2.5 cm. wide, middle ones mostly more than 5 times as long as wide, more finely serrate; lower panicle branches 3–15 cm. long, commonly less than 10 cm.

Var. *Pitcheri* occurs primarily in the low prairies of Iowa, Illinois, southern Wisconsin and Minnesota, extending eastward locally as far as Cincinnati, Ohio, and northwestward to south-central Alberta; intergrading freely with narrow-leaved races where the ranges overlap. The leaves vary from glabrous (so described by Nuttall) to pubescent over the surface beneath. In at least some cases, the pubescence of both var. *Pitcheri* and var. *gigantea* is certainly derived from introgression with other species, particularly *S. altissima* L., with which they grow and with which apparent hybrids have been observed in the field. *Solidago dumetorum* Lunell (Amer. Midl. Nat. **2**: 57, 1911) and *S. satanica* Lunell, l. c. (types in Herb. University of Minnesota, both from North Dakota) have the appearance of hybrids between *S. gigantea* var. *Pitcheri* and *S. pruinosa* Greene. They are at any rate extremely similar, and are not referable to two different species. Some Colorado and Wyoming plants have the appearance of Midwestern var. *Pitcheri*, but slightly longer (though not narrower) leaves, the length more than 5 times the width. I consider these local forms of var. *Pitcheri*. They possibly are the result of crossing with *S. lepida* DC. var. *elongata* (Nutt.) Fernald or other Western species. *S. gigantea* is also represented in the Rocky Mountains and Northwest by var. *salebrosa* (Piper) Friesner (Butler Univ. Bot. Studies **5**: 113, 1941) differing from the other varieties in having a pubescent instead of glabrous stem.—LLOYD H. SHINNERS, SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY, DALLAS, TEXAS.